is available for various Industrial and Service Sector activities including hotels, adventure, leisure sports and ropeways in the North Eastern States including Sikkim.

Wine Tourism in Karnataka and Maharashtra

4276. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some section of industrialists are promoting Wine Tourism in the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra without the approval of the Central Government.

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government for such a move harming the basic culture of our society?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra are not promoting wine tourism in their respective States. However, as per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, wineries in the State of Maharashtra invite people to see the process of making wine.

Scheme for Rural Tourism

4277. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Rural Tourism is implemented in Goa;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) the financial assistance, if any given to Goa since the commencement of the scheme;

(d) the activities carried out under the scheme in the State;

(e) whether there are success stories of the scheme in other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories including Goa for infrastructure development in rural sites under the Scheme of Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. Activities pertaining to community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are being supported through Government of India - United Nation's Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Project and the Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry.

The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core-competencies such as culture, craft, handlooms and textile.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal from Government of Go to be sanctioned under Rural Tourism scheme.

(e) and (f) Both domestic and international tourists have already started visiting ru al tourism sites. Artisans from several rural tourism sites have showcased their products through

participation in fairs and festivals such as Deepawali Deep Utsav at Delhi Haat, Indian International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, Surajkund Craft Mela, Surajkund, Toshali Mega Craft Mela and Shopping Festival, Bhubaneswar etc.

Harassment of foreign tourists

4278. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware to harassment, molestation, rape and murder of foreign tourists in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last one year, and till date;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up 24-hour tourist helpline for foreign tourists and publicize through Government of India Tourist offices abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such, the registration, detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The data on incidents of crimes against tourists, including foreign tourists is not compiled by Ministry of Tourism. Following recent media reports regarding harassment with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories and representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. It was emphasized that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same.

National Policy for adventure tourism

4279. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a National Policy to boost adventure tourism.

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Adventure Tourism Industry has asked for certain incentives to promote this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia,* indicating the action plan of Government to promote this tourism in Orissa and Jharkhand sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The National Tourism Policy focuses on development and promotion of tourism including adventure tourism